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GENERAL DEBATE

EXAMINATION OF THE WORLD SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO DRUG ABUSE, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Note by the Secretariat**

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INTRODUCTION

1. In reviewing the terms of reference of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991, called upon the Commission to review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to review the development and implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control which had been drawn up on the instructions of the General Assembly. In that resolution the Council also requested the Secretary-General "to take the appropriate administrative and substantive steps to ensure that the Commission will be able to assume these additional functions with effect from the date set for in its 1992 session." The present document has been prepared to facilitate the Commission's review of the Global Programme of Action and the System-Wide Action Plan by outlining their development to date. In addition, the Commission will have before it appropriate documents of the Assembly and the Council as explained below in paragraphs 7 and 16.

I. GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 44/16 of 1 November 1989, decided to convene a special session of the Assembly to consider, as a matter of urgency, the question of international cooperation against illicit drug traffic "with a view to expanding the scope and increasing the effectiveness of such cooperation". Following extensive deliberations at its seventeenth special session, the Assembly adopted resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990 to which was annexed a Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action. The Assembly committed itself to the full and speedy implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

3. In approving the Global Programme of Action, the General Assembly emphasized that international solidarity and collective action by the international community are required to address the problem of the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of drugs. Recognizing the important role played by the international drug control conventions of 1961, 1971, 1972 and 1988 as well as the contributions of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT) of 1987, the Assembly adopted the Global Programme of Action "in order to achieve the goal of an international society free of illicit drugs and drug abuse".

4. In identifying the activities of the Global Programme of Action (which are outlined below), the Assembly indicated that the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (CMO) adopted by ICDAIT should be used, to the widest extent possible, by national authorities and interested organizations as a basis for developing and translating into action, at the national, regional and international levels, balanced strategies aimed at combating all aspects of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

5. The activities of the Global Programme of Action are described under eight categories: prevention and reduction of drug abuse; treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts; control of supply of drugs (both licit and illicit); suppression of illicit trafficking; measures against money laundering; strengthening of judicial and legal systems; measures against diversion of arms and explosives; and requirements related to resources and structure at both the national and international levels.

6. In considering follow-up measures, the Assembly invited States to tanslate the Global Programme of Action "into practical action to the widest possible extent" and requested the cooperation of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP were specifically requested to monitor continuously the progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report annually to it on all activities relating to the Global Programme of Action and the efforts of Governments. The United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse is identified as a period for intensifying and sustaining efforts at all levels.

7. For its review of the Global Programme of Action, the Commission will have before it Assembly document A/RES/S-17/2. In addition, the first report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 97 of the Global Programme of Action is to be found in document A/46/511 together with the report on System-Wide Action Plan activities (see paragraph 16 below). Copies of the CMO will be available in connection with the review of the Global Programme of Action.

II. UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

8. At the twenty-fourth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in October 1989, the committees recommended that the appropriate intergovernmental bodies should consider a system-wide action plan, to be prepared by ACC, covering specific drug control related activities to be carried out by organizations of the United Nations system individually and collectively. The system-wide action plan would aim at the full implementation of all existing drug control related mandates and subsequent decisions that might be taken at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly scheduled for February 1990.

9. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 44/141 of 15 December 1989, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC,

> "to coordinate at the inter-agency level, the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on drug abuse control aimed at the full implementation of all existing mandates and subsequent decisions of intergovernmental bodies throughout the United Nations system, using as a guide the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control."

10. The General Assembly further requested ACC to include in the System-Wide Action Plan, inter alia,

> "(i) A statement of purposes that defines the overall goal and denotes specific objectives;
>
> (ii) An outline of concrete activities that each agency should undertake, within its mandate, ensuring that there is no duplication or overlap;
>
> (iii) A reasonable time-frame for implementation of each portion of the

(iv) A realistic cost estimate for implementing the action plan, being mindful that resources are limited and that it would be necessary for agencies to focus priorities, review deployment of resources or obtain, if necessary, from their governing bodies the authority needed to fulfil their part of the plan."

11. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly, consultations were held between the former three drug control units of the Secretariat (the Division of Narcotic Drugs, the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control), and agencies represented on the ACC to develop a framework for the System-Wide Action Plan. A consolidated draft of the outline of the System-Wide Action Plan was circulated to all agencies participating in ACC on 24 January 1990. It was reviewed by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control, which met in February 1990. It was further revised to take account of the views expressed at that meeting and to incorporate the decisions taken by the Assembly at its seventeenth special session (20-23 February 1990) contained in the Global Programme of Action.

12. In the light of the guidelines provided in resolution 44/141, the Secretary-General presented to the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1990 his report entitled "United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control" (E/1990/39). The Action Plan identified concrete activities that each agency should undertake and outlilned a reasonable time-frame for its implementation as well as a realistic assessment of the resources that were available and the additional resources required for that purpose.

13. In resolution 1990/87 of 27 July 1990, the Economic and Social Council noted that the System-Wide Action Plan "should adequately reflect the balance achieved in the Global Programme of Action" and stressed the need to revise it in order "to incorporate fully all the mandates and activities contained in the Global Programme of Action". Accordingly an updated version of the System-Wide Action Plan, prepared following inter-agency consultations and information received, was circulated in October 1990 as document E/1990/39/Add.1.

14. In its resolution 45/179 of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to review the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, as revised, including all mandates and recommendations established by the Global Programme of Action in the light of structural changes decided in the present resolution." It may be recalled that in that resolution the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

15. At the inter-agency coordination meeting held in September 1991, and recalling the Assembly's request for a revision of the System-Wide Action Plan in the light of structural changes decided upon in its resolution 45/179, it was announced that UNDCP would circulate a draft revised version in the first part of 1992 (ACC/1991/PG/11, para. 17). Updated information has been requested from the various organizations of the United Nations system to further the process of revision prior to the next inter-agency coordination meeting scheduled for April 1992.

16. For its review of the development and implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan, the Commission will have before it Economic and Social Council documents E/1990/39 and Corr.1 and 2 as well as the revised version in E/1990/39/Add.1. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General on "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking" (A/46/511) referred to above in paragraph 7 contains a chapter on "Coordination of activities within the United Nations system", compiled on the basis of information provided by the various entities and programmes, which reviews action taken under the five categories of activities established in the System-Wide Action Plan.